

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Performance Measures Description

August 5, 2008

Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided

Purpose

The purpose of this Performance Measure (PM) is to demonstrate the value of Sierra ecosystem resources in reducing the effects of climate change. Potential project types can include forest management, forest conservation, renewable energy generation and industrial process improvements. The carbon reductions included in this performance measure will be informed by and linked as appropriate to protocols such as those published by the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR).

Likely Project Categories

This PM would likely be applicable for projects in the following categories:

- Site improvement/restoration
- Acquisition projects
- Education/Interpretation

Variations

This PM is further classified into the following variations:

- Forestry Sector
- Power/Utility Sector
- General Business/Industry Sector

Guidance on Applying this PM to Your Project

The following is a recommended approach to collecting data and reporting on this PM. If your project requires unique steps or considerations, please discuss them with your SNC project manager.

- Data collection & Analysis: Data collection methods and calculated carbon reductions will vary by project, and should conform to industry protocols such as those used by CCAR. The relevant protocols are described in the “Other” section below.
- Reporting: You are asked to document accepted reductions by providing:

- a. a copy of the CCAR receipt for the accepted emissions reductions on an annual basis; or,
- b. if your project does not follow CCAR guidelines, a description of the protocol used to determine estimates.

Other

For projects using CCAR guidelines, the data collection, analysis and reporting for this performance measure is based on CCAR's approach to tracking carbon reductions. References for this process are available at the California Climate Action Registry Web site: www.climateregistry.org.

For projects proposing the use of other protocols, grantees should identify and describe the methodology for calculating carbon sequestered or emissions reduced. Grantees should also provide a source reference for such protocols.

Reporting does require a high level of effort for the first year. The CCAR reporting and certification process requires an extensive understanding of their protocols, time to assemble required information and an audit by an independent verification agency. This process is expected to require specialized expertise to support grantees. This expertise could come from a consultant. The first-year process is expected to require 100-200 hours, while later years may only require 40 hours of grantee time. After reporting to CCAR, the additional effort to transfer information from the CCAR registry to SNC is estimated to be less than 40 hours of grantee time annually. This transfer does not require specialized expertise. For other projects, the level of effort will likely be comparable, however it will vary based on the approach.